

ABSOLUTE

SUPERMAN™



ALL IN

15+
TEEN+

13



AARON
SANDOVAL
ARREOLA



BATMAN & ROBIN

YEAR ONE

"Another classic Year One
in DC's history." —AIPT

© & TM DC.

THE DEFINITIVE ORIGIN OF
GOTHAM'S DYNAMIC DUO.

Written by **MARK WAID** and **CHRIS SAMNEE**

Art by **CHRIS SAMNEE**

COMPLETE 12-ISSUE COLLECTED EDITION
AVAILABLE IN DECEMBER

SIX WEEKS AGO.

LAZARUS ROLLED ITS *TANKS* DOWN MAIN STREET.

PAST THE EMPTY STOREFRONTS, THE NINETY YEAR OLD FEED STORE, AND THE SMALLVILLE GUILD OF QUILTERS.

ATTACK HELICOPTERS SWARMED LIKE FLIES AT THE STATE FAIRGROUNDS, TOPPLING THE YEAR'S PRIZE BUTTER SCULPTURE OF AMELIA EARHART....

...A BELOVED KANSAS NATIVE, AND MY OWN PERSONAL IDOL SINCE I WAS FIVE.

THE KANSANS STOOD THEIR GROUND, ARMED TO THE TEETH.

LIKE THEY DID DURING THE *BORDER WARS* OF THE 1850S, WHEN IT WAS MISSOURI BUSHWHACKERS AND CONFEDERATE GUERRILLAS CAME TO SACK THEIR TOWNS.

THEY WERE FARMERS AND THE SONS OF SALT MINERS.

THE DAUGHTERS OF FREE STATERS AND DODGE CITY GUNFIGHTERS.

"AD ASTRA PER ASPERA" WENT THEIR STATE MOTTO.



ACROSS NINE MILLION LIGHT-YEARS, ROCKETED ALONE FROM HIS EXPLODED ALIEN HOMEWORLD, HIS FLESH SIZZLING WITH THE POWER OF A *FALLEN STAR*...

...OF COURSE HE WOULD FIND HIS WAY *HERE*, TO THESE SUN-DRENCHED PRAIRIES AND SUNFLOWER FIELDS.

"AD ASTRA PER ASPERA." "TO THE STARS THROUGH DIFFICULTIES."

SO BEGAN THE *BATTLE OF KANSAS*.

SOL, I NEED YOU TO USE YOUR EVERY LAST CRYSTAL TO *FORTIFY* SMALLVILLE.

I CAN DO THIS, BUT IT WILL MEAN DEFYING MY PRIMARY OBJECTIVE, AS INSTALLED BY YOUR PARENTS.

IT WILL MEAN LEAVING YOU WITHOUT MY PROTECTION, WHILE YOU'RE STILL WEAKENED AND RECOVERING FROM YOUR ORDEAL AT THE HANDS OF--



MY PARENTS ARE *DEAD*. SMALLVILLE ISN'T. NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.

OVERRIDE ALL EXISTING EL PROTOCOLS.

YOU'RE *SMALLVILLE'S* CAPE NOW. I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

AS YOU WISH, KAL-EL.



PEACEMAKER ARMOR'S WEAKEST AT THE KNEES.

AIM FOR THE TAIL ROTORS ON THE CHOPPERS.

RIGHT. FOR SMALLVILLE, THEN.



FIRST THING LAZARUS DID WAS BLOW UP THE PHONE TOWERS AND JAM THE INTERNET.



BY THE TIME THE PEACEMAKERS PARACHUTED ONTO THE JAYHAWKER COMMUNITY BASEBALL FIELD, BLOCKADES HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED ON EVERY HIGHWAY AND HIKING TRAIL IN AND OUT OF TOWN.



THE PRAIRIE WOULD SOON BE *MINED* FOR MILES IN EVERY DIRECTION, THE ARKANSAS RIVER PATROLLED BY REAPER DRONES.

(AND AROUND HERE, THAT'S THE AR-KAN-ZES, NOT THE AR-KEN-SAW. THEY'RE PRETTY *INSISTENT* ON THAT.)



CORNFIELDS, CATTLE RANCHES, AND THE CROP DUSTERS AT THE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT WERE *CARPET-BOMBED* INTO OBLIVION BY LAZARUS FIGHTER JETS.



BY MIDDAY, POWER HAD BEEN CUT TO ALL OF SMALLVILLE AND ITS SURROUNDING FARMS.

THIS WAS MORE THAN JUST A BATTLE.



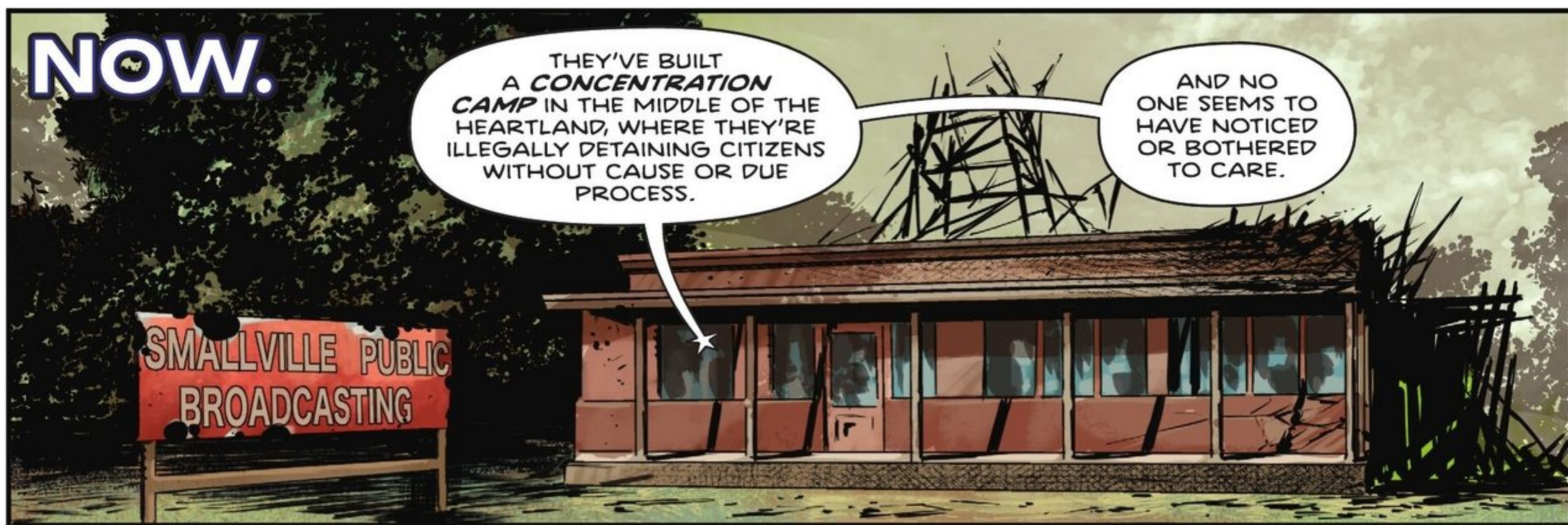
THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL CORPORATION, WITH A MARKET CAP OF FOUR TRILLION DOLLARS, WAS LAYING *SIEGE* TO A RURAL COMMUNITY OF BARELY TWENTY THOUSAND PEOPLE.



THIS WAS
WAR.



AND IT
HAD ONLY
BEGUN.



NOW.

THEY'VE BUILT A **CONCENTRATION CAMP** IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HEARTLAND, WHERE THEY'RE ILLEGALLY DETAINING CITIZENS WITHOUT CAUSE OR DUE PROCESS.

AND NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE NOTICED OR BOTHERED TO CARE.



THE LAZARUS CORPORATION, AS DIRECTED BY ITS CEO, **RA'S AL GHUL**, IS APPLYING THE FULL FORCE OF ITS RESOURCES TOWARD **STRANGLING** THIS COMMUNITY.

SMALLVILLE WOULD'VE BEEN WIPED FROM THE EARTH WEEKS AGO IF NOT FOR THE EFFORTS OF ONE MAN.



THEY CALL HIM **SUPERMAN**. THE THINGS HE CAN DO ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE UNLESS YOU'VE SEEN THEM.

WE HAVE.

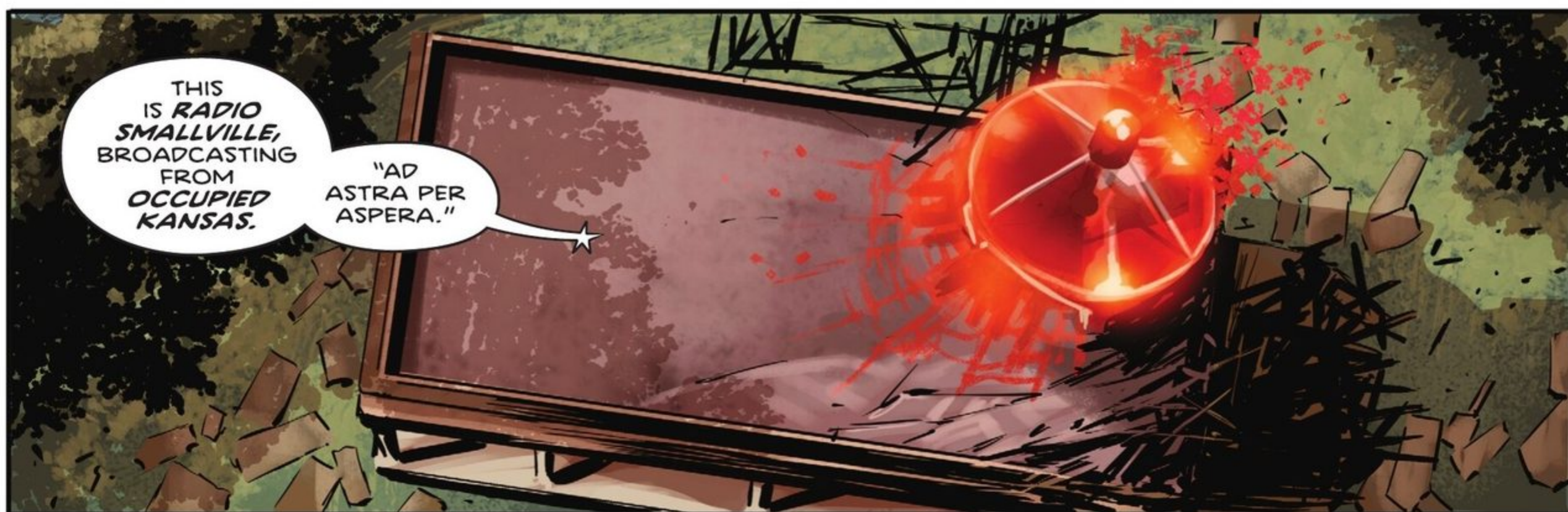
EVERY WORD OF THIS PACKET IS TRUE AND VERIFIABLE. THESE ARE REPORTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE WORLD'S MOST VOLATILE **WAR ZONE**, RIGHT HERE IN THE SUNFLOWER STATE.



ALERT--LAZARUS HAS DETECTED OUR SIGNAL. FORCES APPROACHING.

TIME TO GO, MS. LANE!

IF ANYONE CAN HEAR US, WE NEED YOU TO SPREAD THE WORD, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.



THIS IS **RADIO SMALLVILLE**, BROADCASTING FROM **OCCUPIED KANSAS**.

"AD ASTRA PER ASPERA."





THE OTHER DAY.

BEFORE THIS, MS. LANE, WOULD YOU BELIEVE...I WAS THE WORLD'S *WORST* PHOTOGRAPHER.



MY OWN MOM USED TO CALL ME *JIMMY THREE-THUMBS*.

FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I EVER TOOK A DECENT PHOTO...WAS THE NIGHT... THE NIGHT I...



RIGHT, YEAH, GREAT. LOOK, OLSEN, I GOT A STORY HERE TO WRITE.

AL GHUL IS MOVING TO PHASE THREE OF HIS *OCCUPATION HANDBOOK*. I SHOULD KNOW. I ACED THAT COURSE IN LAZARUS ACADEMY.

HOW MANY *K'S* IN "DESPOTIC OLIGARCH"?



NOT A ONE.

MS. LANE...WHEN YOU WERE AN AGENT OF LAZARUS...WHEN DID YOU FIRST KNOW...



WHEN DID YOU REALIZE YOU WERE ON THE *WRONG SIDE*?



EXACT SAME MOMENT *YOU* DID, I'M GUESSING.

NOW.

JIMMY OLSEN
AND I COME FROM
TWO DIFFERENT
WORLDS, FROM
OPPOSITE ENDS OF
EVERY CONCEIVABLE
SPECTRUM--ME WITH
LAZARUS, HIM WITH
THE OMEGA MEN.

BUT THE ONE
THING WE HAVE IN
COMMON...IS THAT
WE'VE ALWAYS HAD
THIS GNAWING
SENSE...

...THAT SOMETHING
WAS *WRONG*.

THAT *EVERYTHING*
WAS *WRONG*.

GAAGH!

LANA!
KEEP GOING,
JIMMY!

YOU KEEP
GOING!

FOR YEARS IT WAS LIKE
AN ITCH WE COULDN'T
SCRATCH.

THIS FEELING THAT SOMEONE
HAD TAKEN THE GAME BOARD
OF OUR LIVES AND SHAKEN IT
LIKE A MADMAN...

...UNTIL ALL THE PIECES
WENT SKITTERING IN THE
WRONG DIRECTION.

I AM AFRAID
I MUST SEAL
THE TUNNEL.

WHAT
ARE YOU
WAITING
FOR, SOL?!
DO IT!

THERE WERE PLENTY
OF TIMES WE THOUGHT
WE WERE CRAZY.

MOMENTS OF DESPAIR WHEN
WE FIGURED WE'D ALWAYS
BE LOST AND MISERABLE,
ALWAYS SEARCHING. WHEN
WE WONDERED IF WE EVEN
WANTED TO GO ON.

AND THEN ONE
DAY, OUT OF THE
BLUE...EVERYTHING
CHANGED.



THE DAY I MET
SUPERMAN.

THAT'S
WHEN I
KNEW.

I DIDN'T HAVE THE
FIRST CLUE WHO HE WAS OR
WHERE HE WAS FROM. BUT
SOMEHOW I COULD TELL...



...IF THERE WAS ONE
RIGHT SIDE IN THIS LEAKY,
SLOSHING @#\$%-BUCKET
OF A WORLD...



...IT WAS
HIS.

AND I DAMN
SURE HAD TO
BE *ON* IT.

**FIVE
WEEKS
AGO.**

WE'RE HALF A MILE DOWN, BELOW THE OLD SALT MINES, DEEPER THAN LAZARUS MUNITIONS CAN REACH.

I DUG THE TUNNELS MYSELF. ADDED SOME WELLS. AND RIGGED LIMITED ELECTRICITY, SOLAR-POWERED.

SOL, MY...MY **GUARDIAN**, A BEING MADE OF LIVING **SUNSTONE CRYSTALS**, WILL SERVE AS FORTIFICATION AND SECURITY.

I KNOW MINES. FROM MY TIME ON **KRYPTON**, THE PLANET WHERE...

WELL, IT USED TO BE A PLANET... BEFORE IT...

YOU'LL...BE SAFE HERE. I PROMISE.

THANK YOU, SUPERMAN.

WHAT DID HE SAY? I COULDN'T HEAR A WORD OF THAT.

THEY STARE AT ME LIKE I HAVE THREE HEADS. LIKE I'M MUTTERING GIBBERISH, WHEN I SPEAK MORE OF THEIR LANGUAGES THAN THEY DO.

I HAVE TO GO. SORRY, EXCUSE ME.

I'VE WALKED THIS PLANET IN A WAY NO HUMAN EVER HAS. BUT I'LL NEVER BE ONE OF THEM.

KAL-EL, WAIT...

LOIS LANE IS DIFFERENT. SCARIER. THE WAY SHE LOOKS AT ME...FROM HER, I CAN'T SEEM TO HIDE.

LAZARUS IS AT THE TREATMENT PLANT, ATTEMPTING TO POISON SMALLVILLE'S WATER.

I HAVE TO GET TO **WORK**, LOIS.

WE **BOTH** DO. THE WORLD HAS TO BE TOLD WHAT'S **HAPPENING** HERE. JIMMY AND I ARE WORKING TO DO THAT.

BUT PART OF THAT STORY... WILL HAVE TO BE ABOUT **YOU**.

YOU'VE BEEN LIVING IN THE **SHADOWS** FOR YEARS NOW. AFTER THIS...THERE'LL BE NO MORE HIDING. I NEED TO KNOW YOU'RE **READY** FOR THAT.

ARE YOU PREPARED TO SHOW THE WORLD **WHO YOU ARE?**

WHAT IF...

...I DON'T KNOW WHO I...

SUPERMAN? AH, SORRY TO INTERRUPT. BUT I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU.

MY NAME IS JED COCHRAN. I WAS THE MAIL CARRIER FOR...FOR THE **KENTS**. WHEN YOU FIRST CAME HERE. I WAS...

WELL, THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO SAY THIS.

I WAS THE ONE WHO REPORTED YOU TO LAZARUS.



I BELIEVED WHAT LAZARUS TOLD US, THAT THERE WERE **ENEMIES** AMONG US. I THOUGHT I WAS DOING THE RIGHT THING. THAT I WAS PROTECTING MY COMMUNITY.

BUT NOW, HERE WE ARE, HERE YOU ARE, AND...



MY **FAMILY** WOULD BE DEAD IF IT WASN'T FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE, SUPERMAN.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, OTHER THAN...I WAS WRONG. I'M SORRY.

AND **THANK YOU.**



KAL?

IT'S ALL RIGHT. I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO FORGIVE ME. I JUST NEEDED TO SAY MY PIECE.

TEAR HIS ARM OFF. MELT THE SKIN FROM HIS BONES. HURL HIM INTO THE SUN.



YOU HAVE A SHARP EYE, JED. WE NEED THAT. WE COULD USE YOU ON **GUARD DUTY.**



DON'T CRUSH HIS HAND. DON'T CRUSH HIS HAND.

THESE PEOPLE ARE **ALL** YOUR FAMILY NOW. HELP ME PROTECT THEM.

I WILL, SUPERMAN.



THIS ISN'T MY HOME. I HAVE NO HOME. I FIGHT FOR STRANGERS WHO **FEAR ME.**

TELL PEOPLE WHATEVER YOU WANT, LOIS.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

I AM NOTHING AND NO ONE.

I'M ONLY
HERE TO BLEED.

YOU SAID WE
HAD A PLAN TO
NEUTRALIZE THAT
CAPE OF HIS. IT
DOESN'T LOOK VERY
NEUTRALIZED
TO ME.

PATIENCE,
DAUGHTER. ALL
WILL BE READY
SOON.

WHERE'S
BRAINIAC? WE
NEED MORE OF
HIS KRYPTONITE
IF WE'RE GOING
TO BRING THE
ALIEN TO HIS
KNEES.

BRAINIAC IS OTHERWISE OCCUPIED.
AND I HAVE MY OWN PLANS
FOR THE REMAINING
KRYPTONITE.

WE'LL HAVE
TO EMPLOY
OTHER MEANS OF
STRENGTHENING
OUR ARMY.

YOU
MEAN...

YES,
TALIA. FETCH
YOUR *GOD*
BOX.

"IT'S TIME TO
LET THE HAND
OF THE *OMEGA*
GUIDE THE WAY."

NOW.

ZZZGH!



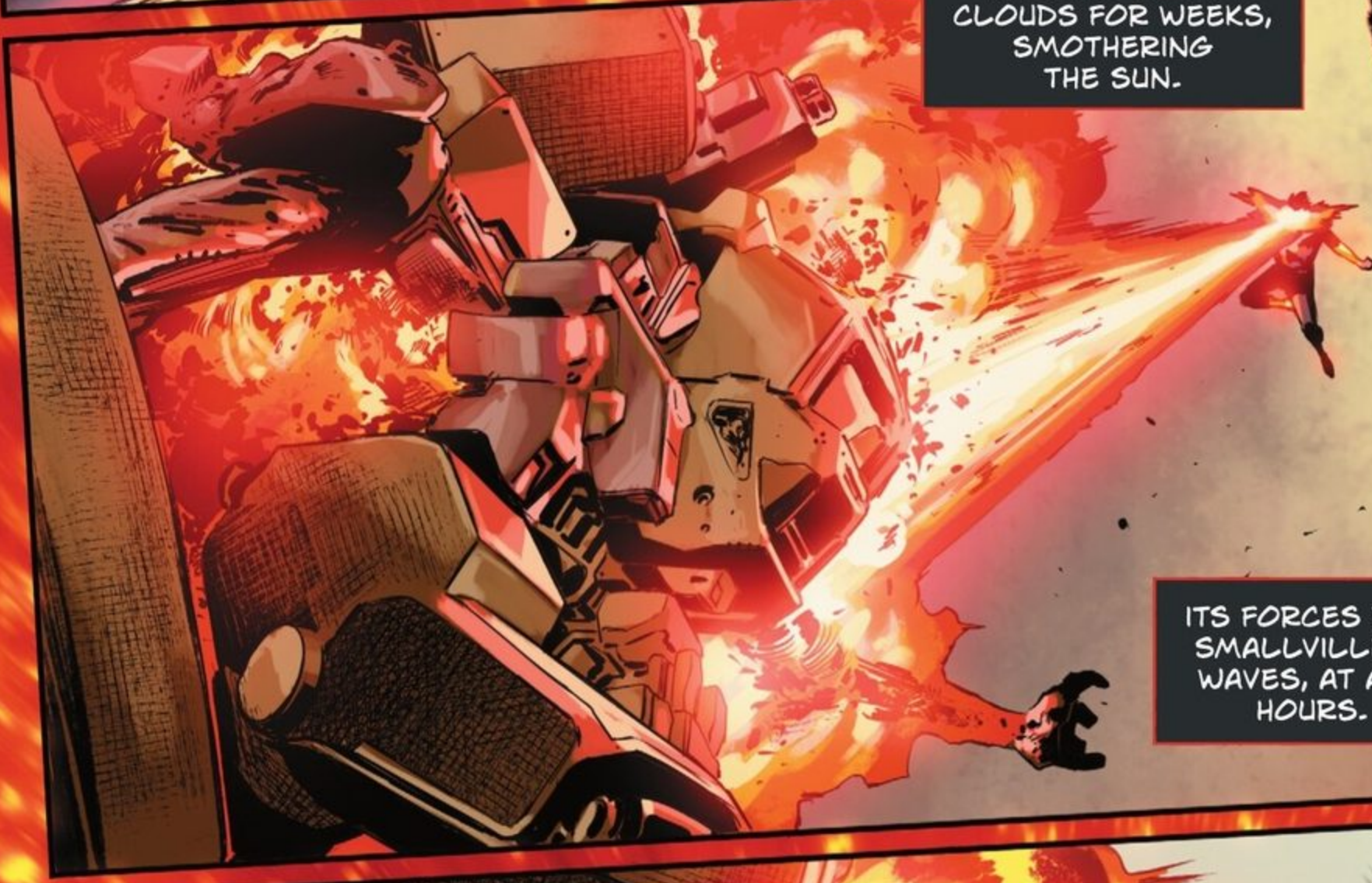
MECHS KEEP GETTING STRONGER.
INFUSED WITH THE POWER OF
TALIA'S MYSTERIOUS FATHER BOX.

BEHIND EVERY
PUNCH IS A
GROWLING
WHISPER THAT
SCORCHES MY
EARS.

LAZARUS HAS BEEN
SEEDING STORM
CLOUDS FOR WEEKS,
SMOTHERING
THE SUN.



ITS FORCES RAID
SMALLVILLE IN
WAVES, AT ALL
HOURS.



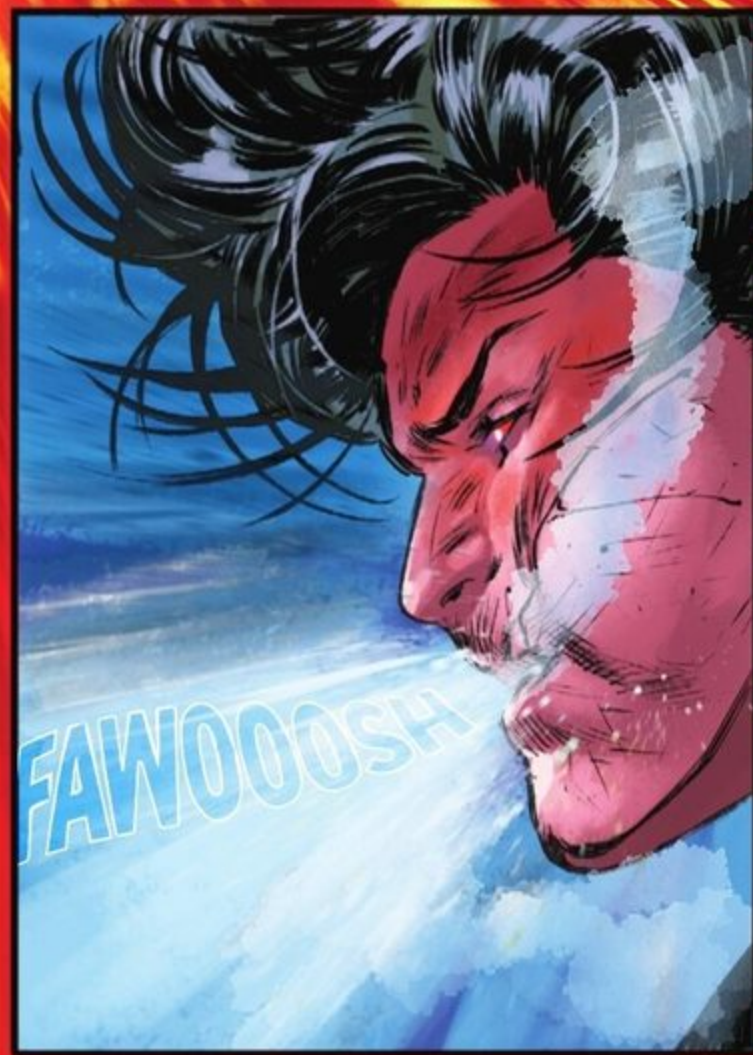
LAZARUS
DOES NOT
SLEEP.



SO
NEITHER
DO I.



WAAA-KOOOON



EYES FEEL LIKE GAPING
WOUNDS. LUNGS FULL
OF RAZOR BLADES.

NEED TO LEAP ABOVE THE
CLOUDS, BASK IN THE SUNLIGHT.

BUT THERE ARE HOUSES
BURNING ON LANGMORE ROAD.
WARSHIPS ON THE ARKANSAS.
NEED TO MOVE THE ROBINSONS'
COWS TO A SAFER PASTURE.

YOU
CAN'T KEEP
THIS UP.

YOU'RE
EXHAUSTED.
ANYONE CAN
SEE THAT.

YOU'RE
PROTECTING AN
ENTIRE TOWN, DAY
AND NIGHT.



EVEN A
SUPERMAN HAS
HIS LIMITS.

HAS ANYONE
HEARD THEM
YET, LOIS? YOUR
BROADCASTS,
YOUR STORIES?

IS ANYONE
COMING?



I DON'T
KNOW. **NO**,
I GUESS.
NOT **YET**.

THEN
WE'LL **BOTH**
KEEP DOING WHAT
WE HAVE TO
DO, WON'T
WE?



THE
WORLD WILL
KNOW ABOUT
SMALLVILLE, NO
MATTER WHAT
IT TAKES.

THEY'LL
KNOW
ABOUT
YOU.

IT'S
YOUR STORY
THAT WILL CHANGE
EVERYTHING. I
BELIEVE THAT. I
KNOW IT.

BECAUSE...
IT CHANGED--





KAL...SOMETHING IS...
WRONG...WITH ME.

KERR-KERRRAKK

SOL!

SOL, WHAT
IS IT? WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

I HAVE BEEN...
INFILTRATED. I
SHOULD HAVE
NOTICED. I...

KAL...

I AM SO
SORRY...
I...



SOL!



SOL IS *GONE*,
SUPERMAN.

NO.

NO
MORE WILL
YOU HAVE HIM
WHINING IN YOUR
EAR, HOLDING
YOU BACK.
YOU'RE *FREE*
NOW.

THANKS TO
BRAINIAC.

THANKS TO
BRAINIAC.

THANKS TO
BRAINIAC.

THANKS TO
BRAINIAC.

THANKS TO
BRAINIAC.

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BRAINIAC.

THANKS TO
BRAINIAC.

THANKS TO
BRAINIAC.

THANKS TO
BRAINIAC.



WHAT THE HELL? IS THAT...

WE HAVE TO GET EVERYONE OUT OF THE TUNNELS! NOW!



OH NO, I THINK NOT, MS. LANE.



GET BACK! I'LL SMASH IT TO PIECES!

SOL, I'M SORRY FOR--



UUGH!

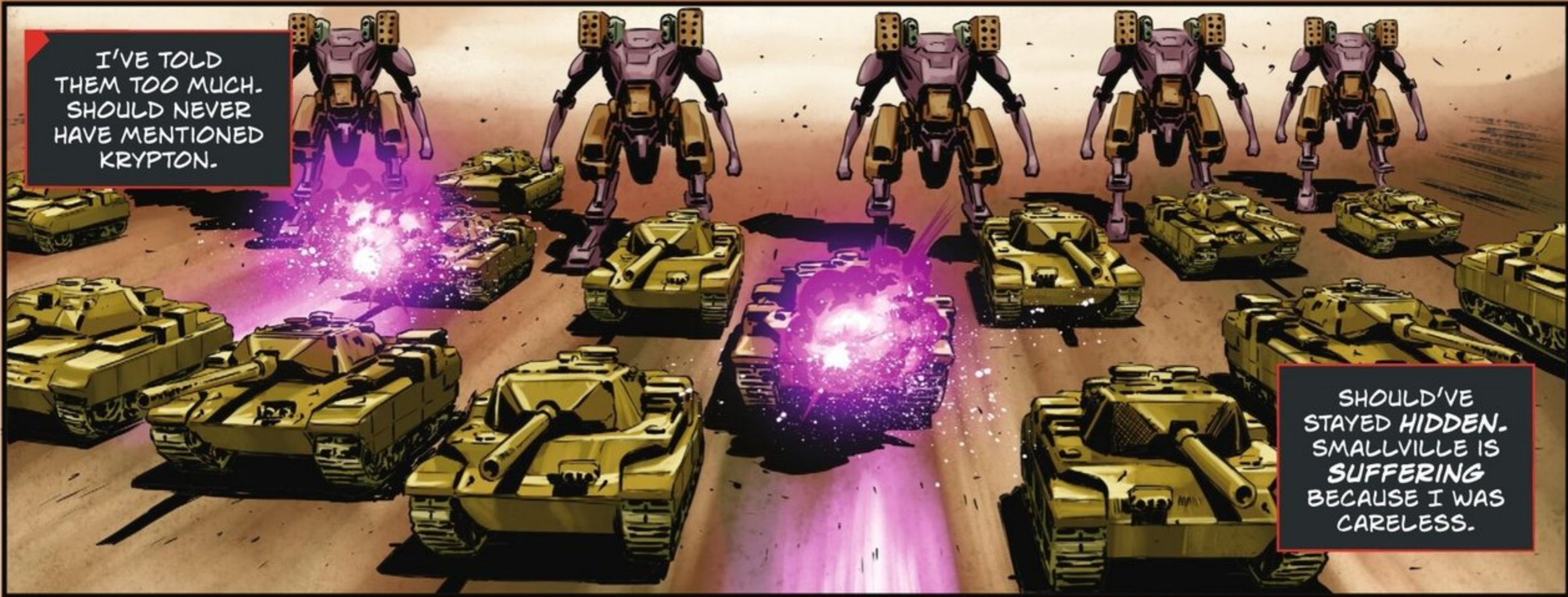
THIS WORLD WILL NEVER TRUST ME. I'LL ALWAYS BE AN "OTHER" TO THESE PEOPLE. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I TELL THEM.



IF HE WOULD JUST TELL US WHO HE IS, STOP HIDING...PEOPLE WOULD BE AMAZED.

KAL-EL!

THEY'D SEE HIM FOR THE HERO HE IS.



I'VE TOLD THEM TOO MUCH. SHOULD NEVER HAVE MENTIONED KRYPTON.

SHOULD'VE STAYED HIDDEN. SMALLVILLE IS SUFFERING BECAUSE I WAS CARELESS.



BECAUSE I SHOWED THE WORLD SOMETHING I CARED ABOUT.

NEVER DO THAT AGAIN.



WHAT DOES HE CARE ABOUT? WHO IS HE? DOES HE EVEN KNOW? HOW DO I *HELP* HIM TO KNOW?

NEVER AGAIN.



HOLD YOUR FIRE!

THIS WORLD NEEDS A SUPERMAN. MORE THAN ANYTHING.

BUT THAT ISN'T ME.



THAT ISN'T ME.

OUR GAMES ARE AT AN END, BOY.

THE FINAL JUDGEMENT HAS COME.

BEFORE THIS DAY IS THROUGH, MARK MY WORDS...

...YOU
WILL **KNEEL**
BEFORE RA'S
AL GHUL...

...IN THE
BLOOD OF
THOSE YOU
LOVE...

...AND **BEG**
TO BE MY
SON.



NEXT:
SUPERMAN vs.
RA'S AL GHUL!

ABSOLUTE SUPERMAN

JASON AARON *WRITER*
RAFA SANDOVAL *ARTIST*
ULISES ARREOLA *COLORIST*
BECCA CAREY *LETTERER*

RAFA SANDOVAL & ULISES ARREOLA *COVER*

BENGAL, DAVID TALASKI, MIKEL JANÍN
VARIANT COVERS

THE BATTLE OF KANSAS

ASH PADILLA
ASSISTANT EDITOR
CHRIS CONROY
EDITOR

PART TWO
*THE FREE STATE
OF SMALLVILLE*

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY
SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY
SIEGEL FAMILY.

DEEP SPACE. NOW.

BATMAN *Static* BEYOND

#1 PREVIEW

WRITER EVAN NARCISSE

ARTIST NIKOLAS DRAPER-IVEY

COLORIST WIL QUINTANA

LETTERER WES ABBOTT

Never imagined my future would look like this.

20 years ago, I was plain ol' Virgil Hawkins, studying for AP physics and scraping together cash for a new gaming monitor.

Then I got my powers at the Big Bang protest and everything changed.

Today, Earth's on the brink of being accepted into an intergalactic alliance called the Cooperative, thanks to me and a bunch of other people.

Access to their technology and aggregate knowledge might save the planet from this slow death it's dying.

All I have to do is push myself further than I ever have...and hope things don't blow up in my face.

Haven't done anything on this scale before but I have to try!

Too much on the line!

"JAVELIN TO STATIC. YOU *OKAY* IN THERE?"

ICON

THE MILKY WAY. SOL SYSTEM. EARTH SPACE. 93 MINUTES AGO.

YEAH,
I'M GOOD,
WARHAWK.

SUPERMAN

BATMAN'S
LOOKING A
LITTLE GREEN,
THOUGH...

JOKES
AREN'T ~~ERP~~
HELPING, STATIC...
~~UNGH~~...

HASN'T BATMAN DONE **ZERO-6**
BEFORE? WILL HIS SUIT STILL
WORK IF HE THROWS
UP IN IT?

NAUSEA, BAH! ALL
NAUSEA WAS FLENSD AWAY
FROM ME UNDER GRANNY
GOODNESS'S CARE!

FLASH

WARHAWK

MICRON

BIG BARDA

TOO BAD *I*
COULDN'T RIDE
WITH STATIC. GOTTA
BE SOME COOL TECH
IN THAT BABY OUT
THERE.

STILL DON'T
GET WHY THEY
DIDN'T JUST RIDE
IN THE *JAVELIN*
WITH US.

WELL, I
HELPED **DEVELOP**
THE SHOCKWAVE,
WITH FUNDING FROM
BRUCE WAYNE.

AND THE
OLD MAN BASICALLY
ORDERED ME TO COME
ON THIS FLIGHT.

MAKES *SENSE*
FOR US BOTH TO BE
ON BOARD FOR THE
BETA TEST.



"ALL
SYSTEMS
OPTIMAL."

SPEAKING OF
WHICH, LET ME GET
STARTED.

"WE'LL WARP-JUMP ONCE
THE BIG GUYS CLEAR A *PATH*
THROUGH THE TAURIDS."

SUPER-
HEARING'S
PICKING UP
SOME NERVOUS
TREMORS
IN STATIC'S
VOICE.

I'VE KNOWN
VIRGIL SINCE HE
WAS AN *ADOLESCENT*.
HE WILL SEE THIS
THROUGH, NERVOUS
OR NOT.

COOPERATIVE
DATA TRANSMISSION
INITIATED...

STILL, HIS
CONCERNS ARE
UNDERSTANDABLE.
THE COOPERATIVE'S
INTERPLANETARY
ALLIANCE IS
WATCHING.

IF THE
CRAFT PERFORMS AS
EXPECTED, EARTH WILL BE
ACCEPTED INTO THE
COOPERATIVE.

STILL, I DON'T LIKE IT THAT
THE COOPERATIVE'S MAKING
EARTH *AUDITION* LIKE
THIS, ICON...

THEY *REQUIRE* THAT
ALL MEMBER PLANETS
EXHIBIT SUPERLUMINAL
CAPABILITY.

SOUNDS
LIKE YOU'RE ON
THEIR SIDE.

"NOT SO. I MAY BE FROM A COOPERATIVE PLANET BUT I'VE MADE EARTH MY **ADOPTED** HOME JUST AS YOU HAVE.

"YEARS AGO, STATIC ASKED ME IF I WOULD STAY ON EARTH OR **RETURN** TO MY HOMEWORLD.

"IT'S CALLED **TERMINUS** BECAUSE THEY ACHIEVED THE **PINNACLE** OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

ON HEARING THAT, STATIC WONDERED IF MY TIME ON EARTH MADE ME FEEL MORE **ALIVE** TO MYSELF THAN MY HOME PLANET.

I'VE HAD TO ADMIT THAT HE IS RIGHT. HELPING A SOCIETY COME TO **MATURITY** IS A JOY I DIDN'T KNOW I NEEDED.

WELL DONE, GENTLEMEN. RETURN TO THE SHOCKWAVE. JAVELIN, SYNCHRONIZE WARP ON MY MARK.

STEADY...

...NOOOOOOWWWW!

TO BE CONTINUED IN

BATMAN STATIC #1
BEYOND

ON SALE IN NOVEMBER!

ENTER KING GHIDORAH AND RODAN!

JUSTICE LEAGUE **2** #5

vs. GODZILLA vs. KONG



WRITTEN BY **BRIAN BUCCELLATO**
ART BY **CHRISTIAN DUCE**

NOVEMBER

BATMAN/STATIC

BEYOND

INTERVIEW WITH EVAN NARCISSE

The future just got a shock to its system! Writer Evan Narcisse and artist Nikolas Draper-Ivey team for *Batman/Static: Beyond*, a bold new series that brings together two of DC’s most electrifying heroes—Batman Beyond and Static—for a high-stakes adventure across Neo-Gotham and Dakota City. From new villains to dynamic team-ups, Narcisse shares what makes this story a must-read for longtime fans.

What was the spark that brought Static and Batman Beyond together for this story?

Batman/Static: Beyond serves as a bit of a spiritual sequel to “Static Beyond,” a short story Nikolas Draper-Ivey wrote and illustrated for the *Milestone 30th Anniversary Special*. The enthusiastic response to Nik’s story led to the opportunity to do more with them in a follow-up project.

This series happens in a universe where Static and Batman are both members of the Justice League. Issue #1 opens with a mission that has massive implications for Earth’s standing in the intergalactic political ecosystem, as a technological innovation Static helped develop gets deployed for the first time. Static’s got high hopes for the mission and what it could mean for the planet, but Batman’s just trying to not get space-sick in zero gravity.

What makes Terry and Virgil such a compelling duo to write?

Oh man, they’re just such polar opposites in almost every way. They’re literally light and dark. Static’s the

crackling charge that lights the way out of darkness, and Batman is an avatar of shadow incarnate, everything you should be scared of if you’ve hurt someone. They have different foundational experiences, divergent philosophies, and extremely contrasting methodologies. So of course, there’s going to be lots of juicy tension!

How will the story’s antagonists challenge Static and Batman Beyond in ways fans haven’t seen before?

Our story’s title is “Shadow War,” and it’s going to take both our protagonists to really dark places. Virgil’s always been a deeply optimistic character, and the crisis that unfolds is going to test him physically and mentally. How does someone like him complete a metaphorical electrical circuit when nonconductive barriers stand in his way? Meanwhile, Terry’s going to learn that his confidence was built, in part, on the tools of the trade that he inherited. The big question for him is whether he can still be the Dark Knight when those tools get neutralized.

Both Nikolas Draper-Ivey and Miguel Mendonça are on art for this series. What can readers look forward to in how they’re bringing this story to life?

Readers are going to be in for a treat when they see the variation of styles and approaches Nik and Miguel bring to the table. Nik’s intense, moody style and cinematic page design set up the stakes of the story incredibly well, and you can feel all this sci-fi dynamism in Miguel’s art. These two artists tap into the contrasts of our main characters so perfectly.

Without spoiling too much, is there a moment or reveal that you’re especially excited for fans to see?

There are some deep cuts from the Milestone superhero universe I can’t wait for folks to experience and a badass moment where Static demonstrates what happens when you’re a nerd who’s studied your own powers for years. But there’s also a quieter scene where Virgil talks about Terry’s Bat-identity crisis that I’m very proud of.



Batman/Static: Beyond #1 main cover
by Nikolas Draper-Ivey



Batman/Static: Beyond #1 variant cover
by Dustin Nguyen



Batman/Static: Beyond #1 variant cover
by Rahzzah



Batman/Static: Beyond #1 variant cover
by Denys Cowan

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